

From: Senator Catherine Cortez Masto [<mailto:Senator@cortezmasto.senate.gov>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2018 1:11 PM

To: Kelly McGowan

Subject: Responding to your message

CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO
NEVADA

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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<http://cortezmasto.senate.gov>

Dear Mr. McGowan:

Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns about the Trump administration's proposed budget cuts to our nation's conservation programs. I really appreciate hearing from you.

On February 12, 2018, President Trump released his full budget proposal for fiscal year 2019. Similar to last year's budget, this budget proposal calls for deep cuts across most federal agencies, including drastic cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Under the proposed plan, several dozen EPA programs would be eliminated altogether. In addition, the Trump administration's budget proposal would reduce or eliminate several Federal research programs pertaining to climate and environmental science, alternative energy, energy efficiency and flood prevention.

As you may know, a major bipartisan budget agreement was enacted in March of 2018, which paved the way for \$27.2 billion in domestic investments for the Interior and Environment. Despite the administration's repeated calls to cut funding for environmental and science programs, I am pleased that the omnibus will deliver critical resources to help us tackle the threat of climate change, protect the environment and our public lands. For instance, this law contributed absolutely zero funding for the reopening of Yucca Mountain and it protected the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program so our local governments can continue to provide essential services to Nevada's rural communities. *In addition, the EPA will receive \$8.821 billion, or \$763 million more than the 2017 enacted level, ensuring that the EPA's state and regional grant program will receive full and robust funding.* This law also boosts the Department of Energy's (DOE) funding for energy programs, raises funding for our National Parks, and maintains \$60 million for Sage-Grouse conservation. I pledge to continue to work with other Senators to ensure that our budget reflects sensible, solution-oriented policies that benefit Nevadans.

Having grown up enjoying all of the beautiful landscapes and wildlife that Nevada has to offer, I share your commitment to our nation's conservation programs. I will continue fighting to ensure that conservation programs receive the funding necessary to carry out their important work and that our public lands remain protected and accessible to everyone. Nevadans deserve clean air, clean water and the opportunity to enjoy our state's vast and beautiful public lands. I will continue to fight for federal money for the people of Nevada and fight to make sure Yucca Mountain is not opened.

Thank you again for taking the time to write me. I will continue to ensure that your voice is heard in our nation's capital.

Sincerely,



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

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